

Message Text

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN BISSAU BAMAKO
DAKAR FREETOWN MONROVIA FROM CONAKRY DTD 03 FEB 1978 QTE

CONFIDENTIAL CONAKRY 0231

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, GV
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA--RATIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
CONVENTIONS

1. GUINEA HAS RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL
AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, PARTY-STATE JOURNAL
HOROYA ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4 ISSUE. GUINEAN
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ENACTED RATIFICATION VIA LAWS
002 AND 003/78 ON JANUARY 6. ALSO RATIFIED WERE MARRIAGE
CONVENTION, OPTIONAL PROTOCOL RELATIVE TO CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS COVENANT, AND COVENANT ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL
RIGHTS.

2. BENGALY DABO (DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MFA)
TOLD DCM FEB. 2 THAT GUINEA WISHED TO REGULARIZE
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ITS JURIDICAL POSITION TOWARDS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS STATUTES. GUINEA HAD SIGNED CIVIL AND POLITICAL
RIGHTS CONVENTION ON FEBRUARY 28, 1967 BUT HAD TAKEN NO
FURTHER ACTION UNTIL GOG PUT RATIFICATION PROCEDURE IN MOTION
AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S SIGNATURE OF CONVENTIONS AT UNGA AND
EMBASSY'S DEMARCHE TO MFA LAST FALL (CHARGE HAD STATED THEN THAT
RATIFICATION COULD HELP U.S.-GUINEAN RELATIONS).

3. DCM WELCOMED DABO'S EXPLANATION OF GUINEAN ACTION, NOTED THAT RECENT GOG AMNESTIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED ABROAD, AND REITERATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE MAY WELL BE CRITICAL FACTOR IN U.S.'S ABILITY TO ASSIST IN GUINEA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. DCM GAVE DABO COPY OF 1949 GENEVA CONVENTION AND TOLD DABO THAT GUINEAN RATIFICATION WOULD BE ALSO WELL REGARDED.

4. DABO SAID GOG IN INTEREST OFHCONTINUING BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WOULD NOW LIKE TO KNOW WHEN U.S. SENATE ACTION MAY BE LIKELY ON TWO MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS (ABOVE) AND WHAT CURRENT U.S. POSITION IS TOWARDS (A) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND (B) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON REPRESSION OF CRIME OF APARTHEID, WHICH GUINEA SUPPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE RATIFICATIONS FURTHER ATTEST TO ATTENTION GOG IS GIVING TO IMPROVING ITS IMAGE ABROAD AND FIT CURRENTLY MORE PRAGMATIC GOG LINE. CROSBY UNQTE VANCE

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